

Delaware General Health District

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NEWS RELEASE

POWELL 11-YEAR-OLD HAS DELAWARE COUNTY'S FOURTH H1N1 FLU CASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DELAWARE, Oh., July 24, 2009 – A Powell child has Delaware County's fourth confirmed H₁N₁ flu case.

Test results received today confirmed the illness in an 11-year-old boy from Powell. The child developed a fever, sore throat, and other symptoms on July 17, the day after returning home from a workshop for youths in Illinois. Another H₁N₁ flu case was confirmed earlier in another person attending the same workshop.

The local 11-year-old's symptoms have subsided, said Travis Irvan, Epidemiologist for the Delaware General Health District.

Irvan said the 11-year-old's case did not appear to be connected to any other local H₁N₁ flu cases. The other Delaware County cases, all confirmed during the first week of July, involved a 13-year-old Powell boy, a 37-year-old Powell man, and a 39-year-old Lewis Center man. The 13-year-old became ill while attending a summer camp in Indiana. All have recovered from their symptoms.

The Ohio Department of Health reported 198 confirmed cases of H₁N₁ flu across the state as of today, including the latest Delaware County case. There are 27 confirmed cases in Franklin County and single confirmed cases in Licking and Knox counties.

More than half of Ohio's cases have involved persons under 21.

Nationally, flu activity is decreasing but remains greater than normal for this time of year.

The Health District advises everyone to protect yourself from flu with these measures:

- Wash your hands frequently with warm water and soap to kill germs.

- Cover your coughs and sneezes with your sleeve or a tissue. This catches germs so they don't infect others.
- Stay home from work or school if you are feeling sick, and keep sick children home from daycare, camp, and other activities. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend that persons experiencing flu symptoms stay home until 7 days after symptoms appear or until they have been symptom-free for 24 hours, whichever is longer. This is to keep from infecting others and spreading the virus.